PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
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LECTURE XLV.

THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC.

The Battle of the Atlantic. On 26th February, Hitler said that "in March and April, a submarine warfare will start which the enemy never expected." Forthwith there started in the Atlantic a marauding campaign of great vigour and intensity. Hitler understands that Germany's only hope of defeating Britain is to block the stream of food and munitions reaching her shores from the west, and the resulting maritime struggle has come to be known as the *Battle of the Atlantic*. From another aspect it is Germany's attempt to break the effect of the British blockade of the Continent by a counter-blockade By every means in his power, by U-boat, bomber, mine, and surface raider, the enemy is trying his best to deny Britain the resources of the world. He sinks her ships, many of them ; but more than he sinks get through to her harbours.

The enemy's a negative success. But sinking British ships does not bring grist to Germany's mill. Torpedoing a British oil tanker does not fill the tanks of the Reich. Europe is not self supporting. She positively

needs raw materials from ASIA, AFRICA, AUSTRALIA, and AMERICA. And the silent, unseen yet inexorable pressure of the British sea-power cuts off EUROPE from the rest of the world.

Three-dimensional battle and some limitations. Hitler's Atlantic adventure is a three-dimensional battle on a grand scale —by submarines, surface raiders, and air-craft—but the Germans seem to hope most from *submarine* attack to which end small submarines which can operate from French ports have been built in large numbers. Against this it must be remembered that dockyard facilities in GERMANY are not unlimited; that the smallest submarine requires instruments of the most delicate precision which cannot be manufactured by mass production methods; and that crews require long training. Moreover, *only a third of the total submarine force can normally be at sea* at the same time owing to time needed for refitting, repairs, and rest for crews. Thus though some highly exaggerated figures about the output of new U-boats from German yards have been put into circulation, (probably from BERLIN as a move in the war of nerves), reliable authorities like the Naval Correspondent of the '*Sunday Times*' estimate the number of German submarines that are now in service at 150, of which 50 alone can maintain the attack. He maintains that experience has proved that only one-third of the available craft can be on active service in any given week; one-third must be resting and one-third undergoing extensive repairs.

Another arm of Hitler's Atlantic offensive is *long distancc air-craft* which, since the collapse of FRANCE, can operate from French bases on the Atlantic seaboard. The *Luftwaffe* can thus patrol the western approaches of BRITAIN far out into the Atlantic. More elusive but no less lethal than submarines, they are correspondingly more difficult to counter, and are distinctly a menace when the weather and visibility are good.

Surface raiders, by which we denote various craft from large battle-cruisers to fast passenger vessels specially armed for war, may play havoc with an unprotected convoy, but they have certain disadvantages. They are, for instance, constantly hampered by the necessity of refuelling and endangered by their inability to repair any damage sustained. It is dangerous for them to send radio messages because the signals might give away their position. Every contact, even

with a merchant victim, marks their position for hunting craft. They cannot afford serious damage and must always rely on hit and run tactics, a demoralising experience even for a battleship.

Counter measures taken by Britain. The counter measures taken by the British to combat this threefold assault are :—

(i) The adoption of the convoy system whose success generally depends on the number of ships guarding each convoy.

(ii) The discovery and use of a multitude of anti-submarine devices which have not only greatly improved since the last war but have also been greatly developed in the last 12 months. It is known that these measures have been particularly successful.

(iii) The maintenance of the Watch and Ward of the Coastal Patrol which has recently been largely augmented, and finally,

(iv) the strengthening of the mine-sweeping service whose men sweep the seas in little ships in all weathers and in hourly peril of destruction, catching mines as though they were large herrings or inedible cod-fish.

The Growth of the British Navy. The growth of the British naval power during this critical period has been so rapid and its success so striking that it has drawn to itself the respect and admiration of all the civilised world The keeping open of Britain's seaways depends upon a sufficient supply of ships and planes (the men are never wanting). It has recently been revealed that, by the end of March, 480 warships were added to the British fleet in a single year—more than 5 times as many as in any year since naval rearmament began. These ships range from battleships like the '*King George V*' to 'mosquito' motor boats. In addition, engines and hulls are being tended with such care that they are performing feats of endurance never intended or expected by their designers. (One destroyer in one year spent 274 days at sea and steamed 62,000 miles).

The Navy has shown at the RIVER PLATE, at NARVICK, at TARANTO, at GENOA, at LOFOTEN and at MATAPAN that it has still, " the

Nelson touch". It is showing every day by unrecorded endurance and heroism, that it also still possesses the dogged resolution which blockaded Napoleon's EUROPE for 20 years without respite. It continues to strike hard at all points of the vast Axis-controlled coastline. E-boat attacks in the North Sea have been driven off and some of them have been damaged and probably sunk, while British submarines themselves have been specially successful in sinking troop-transports and supply ships of the enemy.

The newest auxiliary to the Royal Navy the famous Fleet Air Arm has also been developed immensely and has been alone responsible for the destruction of one enemy battleship, one cruiser, 3 destroyers, 4 submarines, 4 other naval ships and 13 supply ships in addition to damaging 2 battleships, 2 cruisers, 4 destroyers, 4 other warships and 20 supply ships.

When the Channel ports fell to them last summer, the Germans' hopes ran high. Hitler thought that he was not only conquering FRANCE; he was convinced that he was beating BRITAIN too. But he was disappointed. Their armies might be driven off the continent in NORWAY and FRANCE, but the British never despaired about ultimate victory. They could never give in while they still possessed the weapon with which BRITAIN has won every war in her history, the Royal Navy. They still ruled the waves, and every Briton felt that as long as they could keep the seaways of the world closed to GERMANY and open to themselves, they must win in the end. They were right. It is a positive fact that the whole future of the world and of civilization depends on this one thing —British sea power. So long as BRITAIN retains that mastery, it does not matter how many millions of soldiers Hitler may number in his legions; it matters not that his tanks, like a swarm of monstrous beetles, over-run every plain in EUROPE ; his ultimate downfall is certain.

Hitler's time-table gone astray.

It is no wonder therefore that Hitler's *marine time-table* like that of his predecessor Napoleon, *has gone astray*. In spite of his boasts it is surprising how relatively small have been our losses in men and materials. With long range aircraft, Atlantic, Channel and Norwegian bases, and the dockyards of the occupied EUROPE to help them, Hitler's forces have not achieved more than half the success of Kaiser's navy in April 1917 when unrestricted submarine

campaign reached its peak of efficiency. Though obviously we cannot win the Battle of BRITAIN if we lose the Battle of the Atlantic, it comes to this that the *war in the Atlantic is in some ways an admission of weakness on the part of Germany*. It shows that Hitler realises that he cannot crush BRITAIN at a single sudden blow. The fortress is now too strong and an attempt must first be made to weaken it by cutting off of supplies. If Hitler could close the shipping lanes to BRITAIN, he could not only isolate the island from her most potent ally, the United States, but he could also of course prevent reinforcements being sent out from BRITAIN to other theatres of war.

Merchant shipping. Undoubtedly GERMANY is doing us a great deal of damage with this policy, but her U-boats and raiders *will have to sink a lot more shipping before that supply line is in danger of snapping*. The situation may be *serious*, for ships can be sunk more rapidly than they can be built, but calculations recently made show that the shipping still available is rather more than sufficient to keep BRITAIN supplied with all she requires.

The Battle of the Atlantic. Its effect on the people of the U. S. A There is another important aspect of this question. The *wanton destruction of British and Allied ships* is already having its effect in AMERICA.

(i) President Roosevelt has called for 2 million tons of shipping to assist in the work of *rushing aid to Britain*. Already 50 oil tankers have been placed at BRITAIN's disposal.

(ii) Still more positive moves to counter the German raiders are the announcements that U. S. warships may *patrol for 2,000 miles* from the American coast and that they may *enter the Combat Zone around the British Isles*. These patrols will warn merchant ships of the presence of German raiders. This decision in itself is a serious handicap to the Nazi piracy campaign because not only does it make the secrecy on which the campaign depends more difficult to maintain, but it also allows the British Navy to concentrate more thoroughly on the danger area, the narrow seas around BRITAIN itself.

(iii) It is also apparent that American opinion is heading towards *convoying by their own war ships*. German comment on this suggestion is that American ships will be quickly

sunk. If the Nazis really mean that, they are about to make exactly the same mistake as the Kaiser's GERMANY made in 1917 when unrestricted submarine warfare brought the U. S. A. openly into the Great War.

(iv) The American Navy intends to concentrate in the Pacific to release British war ships needed elsewhere. The entrance of the U. S. A. into the war will mean that the British Navy will be joined by the U. S. Navy in their U-boat hunt and that is only another way of saying that **Hitler will lose the Battle of the Atlantic.**

British successes. In the meantime by her own exertions BRITAIN is scoring some notable successes in this battle and it should not be assumed that, left to her own resources, she would lose it. One of such successes is the trapping of the cruisers *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisnau* at BREST, where pounded continually by the R. A. F. they can no longer assist in the work of destruction at sea. Another efficacious activity is the severe bombing which the U-boat bases at LORIENT and other harbours in Occupied FRANCE and the German naval dockyards periodically receive. It makes the battle anything but an one-sided affair, and though for obvious reasons, the details of further sinkings of U-boats at sea cannot be released immediately during this critical period, it is known that they too are suffering heavily,—*in short Britain is giving more than tit for tat.*

Mr. Churchill gave an authoritative summary of the situation in the House of Commons on 9th April : " But after all, everything turns on the Battle of the Atlantic, which is proceeding with growing intensity on both sides. Our losses in ships and tonnage are very heavy and vast as are our shipping resources, these losses cannot continue indefinitely without seriously affecting our war effort. We have lost since the beginning of the war nearly 4 million tons of British shipping. As against this, we have gained under the British flag over 3 million tons of foreign or newly constructed tonnage. But what is to happen if the losses continue at the present rate! Where are we to find another 3 or 4 million tons, to fill the gap which is being created, to carry us on through 1942! We are building merchant ships upon a very considerable scale. We are doing our utmost to accelerate the turn-round of our ships. But when all is said and done, the only way in which we can

get through 1942 without a very sensible contraction of our war efforts is by another gigantic building of merchant ships in the U. S. similar to that prodigy of output which was accomplished by the Americans in 1918. Here then is an assurance upon which we may count for that staying power without which it will not be possible to save the world from the criminals who assail its future."

America will enter the war. The hopes of Mr. Churchill have found a reassuring echo in the hearts of all true Americans. Opinions recently expressed by American statesmen leave no room for doubt that the U. S. A. will soon enter the war on the side of BRITAIN and help as she did in the last war to bring it to a successful termination. Col. Knox, an isolationist at the time of the presidential election and now Secretary for the Navy, after making what he described as "an utterly realistic and objective survey" of world conditions, declared in WASHINGTON on 24th April, that "Hitler cannot allow our war supplies and food to reach ENGLAND. He will be defeated if they do. We cannot allow our goods to be sunk in the Atlantic—we shall be beaten if they are. We must make good our promise to give aid to BRITAIN, we must see the job through". He thus hinted that the U. S. will shortly herself convoy her own supply ships to BRITAIN and her Allies. Similarly, the transfer of more ships and destroyers from the U. S. to BRITAIN and if necessary, provision of U. S. trans Atlantic convoys is being urged by Mr. Wendell Willkie in an article in the widely read '*Collier's Weekly*', New York, in its issue of 1st May, while the immediate use of the U. S. Navy "to make the seas secure for the delivery of munitions to BRITAIN" was urged by Mr. Stimson, Secretary of State for War in a broadcast speech on 6th May at WASHINGTON to the American people.

Dakar. A paper on the Battle of the Atlantic would not be complete without mention of the West African port of DAKAR. DAKAR was an important naval base in the last war. It is even more so now. While it was in French hands, or even if it were strictly neutral, its position on the Southern Atlantic would be no menace to American trade routes. But if Hitler should force the Men of VICHY into belligerency against BRITAIN, considerable concern has been expressed in AMERICA lest Hitler, with DAKAR as his base, should seize the AZORES and the CAPE VERDE ISLANDS (350 miles west of DAKAR) and seriously prejudice what are regarded as AMERICA's vital interests in the Atlantic area.

Duty of India is clear. Such, roughly, is the Atlantic situation. It is grim enough, but, on balance, there can be little doubt that the combined efforts of BRITAIN and the U. S. A. will not only overcome the German maritime menace, but effect a fatal stranglehold on the whole Nazi economy. But the task will be heavy, the losses great, and setbacks and anxieties hard to bear.

The duty of INDIA therefore at this stage is clear. If for the preservation of freedom and liberty and for the maintenance of all that is good in the culture and civilization of the east and the west AMERICA is rushing all possible help to BRITAIN, it is obvious that INDIA, whose destiny is intertwined with and dependent upon that of BRITIAN, *cannot afford to be indifferent* and she *must* help herself by helping BRITAIN with un-grudged men, money and materials.

"Too many of us assume that the present struggle is merely an ordinary regional war, that when it comes to an end, the side which is victorious will collect indemnities but otherwise leave the defeated nations more or less as they were before the conflict began. This assumption will be entirely erroneous should the aggressor powers be the winners. In such an event they propose to make the people of each conquered nation into serfs, to extinguish their liberties, their rights, their law, and their religion. In short, they propose systematically to uproot everything that is high and fine in life." We particularly commend this stirring epitome of Mr. Cordell Hull's on April 24, to the notice of our readers. It is no exaggeration, nor is it in any way short of the truth, and every Indian will do well to mark it, and bestir himself to the utmost of his power, to aid BRITAIN in her conduct of the Battle for Freedom.

R. A. F. Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied Territories.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
12—5—41. (Monday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
NIGHT :—			
	The Industrial centre of MANNHEIM.		Large fires started.
	Military objectives at COLOGNE and COBLENZ.		
	Docks at OSTEND, DUNKIRK and ST. NAZAIRE.	1 plane.	Damaged.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Shipping and harbour at BENGHAZI...		1 ship set on fire.
	Aerodromes at EL GAZALA, DERNA and GAMBUT.		Many planes damaged.
	A ship off DERNA ...		Sunk.
	The Fort of AMBA ALAGI ...		Troops machine-gunned.
13—5—41. (Tuesday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	Barracks, gun-positions and other military objectives at HELIGOLAND		Great confusion everywhere ; heavy damage, big fires started.
	Shipping off the coasts of HOLLAND and FRANCE.		Several ships sunk or damaged.
	Docks and supplyships at STNAZDIRE.	2 planes.	2 ships sunk.
NIGHT :—			
	The Aerodrome at OSTEND ...		......
	IRAQ.		
	Military objectives in IRAQ ...		Heavily damaged.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
13—5—41. (Tuesday.)—*cont.*			
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Railway and Military headquarters and Government buildings at BENGHAZI.		Buildings crashed.
	Fort MENDI ...		......
	Troops and machine-gun posts at SCIASCIAMANNA and GIABBASSIRE.		Heavy casualties among troops.
	The Aerodrome at GONDAR ...	No loss.	Damaged.
14—5—41. (Wednesday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	No air raid over Europe to-day ...	...	...
	IRAQ.		
	Rebel positions, Aerodromes, Railways and motor transport in IRAQ.	...	...
	AMARA, RASHID and **MOSUL** ...	...	...
	The Railway at BAGHDAD.		
15—5—41. (Thursday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	A convoy of supply ships off the FRISIAN Islands.	1 plane.	3 ships burnt out completely.
	Offensive sweeps over the ENGLISH CHANNEL and Northern FRANCE.	1 plane.	Many enemy aircraft on the ground destroyed; one plane shot down.
	Ships off the coasts of FRANCE and HOLLAND.	...	...
NIGHT :—			
	The Industrial quarters in HANOVER.	...	Big fires started.
	BERLIN	...	Heavily damaged.
	Targets in HAMBURG and CUXHAVEN	...	...
	Docks in CALAIS, BOULOGNE and DIEPPE.	4 planes.	Battered.
	Docks and shipping at ST. NAZAIRE and LORIENT.	...	...
	Docks at IJMUIDEN ...	No loss.	...

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
15—5—41.	**(Thursday)**—*cont.*		
	IRAQ.		
	Rebel positions and Aerodromes in IRAQ.	...	...
	SYRIA.		
	Aerodromes and GERMAN aircraft at PALMYRA, DAMASCUS and RAYAK.	...	10 planes damaged on the ground.
16—5—41.	**(Friday.)**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	DAY :—		
	Ships off the NORWEGIAN coast ...	...	A supply ship sunk.
	NIGHT :—		
	The Industrial quarters of COLOGNE...	...	Big fires and explosions started.
	The ports and the coastline between DUNKIRK and BOULOGNE.	...	Battered.
	German guns at CAP GRIS NEZ and CALAIS.	...	Silenced.
	IRAQ.		
	An Aerodrome at MOSUL ...	2 planes.	...
	Petrol and Oil tanks at AMARA ...		Set on fire.
	SYRIA.		
	GERMAN-occupied Aerodromes in SYRIA.	...	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Enemy machanised columns and troop concentrations on the EGYPTIAN frontier.	...	Heavy damage and loss of life.
	The Aerodrome at AKROMA, **BENGHAZI, DERNA, EL GAZALA and BARCE.**	...	3 planes. Considerable damage done. Many aircraft damaged. Fires started.
	Reconnaissance over ABYSSINIA ...	...	...
	Enemy positions in ABYSSINIA ...	6 planes.	...

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
17—5—41. (Saturday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
NIGHT :—			
	The Industrial centre of COLOGNE ...	...	Heavy damage.
	Docks at ROTTERDAM and BOULOGNE	...	Damaged.
	Military objectives in Enemy-occupied territory.	...	...
	Harbours on the FRENCH and DUTCH Coasts.	2 planes.	
	REBEL IRAQ.		
	Aerodromes, Barracks, transport petrol dumps and troop concentrations throughout Rebel IRAQ.	...	... Heavily damaged.
	Reconnaissance over Rebel IRAQ ...	...	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	A transport supply column on the BARDIA-TOBRUK road.	...	Traffic completely stopped. 20 vehicles completely destroyed.
	A petrol dump near BARDIA ...	...	Blown up.
	Aerodromes at MENASTIR and BIR CHLETA.	...	...
	BENGHAZI and DERNA ...	...	...
18—5—41. (Sunday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
NIGHT :—			
	Western GERMANY ...	...	...
	IRAQ.		
	FALLUJAH and RASHID aerodrome...	...	...
	SYRIA.		
	The Aerodromes at PALMYRA, DAMASCUS and RAYAK.	...	Many planes destroyed.
	RHODES ISLAND.		
	The Aerodrome at CALATO ...	...	Damaged.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Enemy tanks between Fort CAPUZZO and HALFAYA.	...	Many vehicles destroyed.
	Extensive Reconnaissance over CYRENAICA.	...	...

ENEMY Raids over BRITAIN and BRITISH Territories.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. losses and results of air bombardment.
13—5—41. (Tuesday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
NIGHT :—			
	A few points here and there along the East coast of ENGLAND.	...	No damage or loss of life.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA ...	...	A few civilians killed.
14—5—41. (Wednesday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	Points in East MIDLANDS and Eastern ENGLAND.	...	Little damage and a very few casualties.
NIGHT :—			
	No air raid anywhere ...	...	...
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA ...	...	No damage at all.
15—5—41. (Thursday).			
	BRITAIN.		
NIGHT :—			
	Areas in South-west of ENGLAND and the East coast of SCOTLAND.	2 planes.	Slight damage and a few casualties.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA	...	Slight damage.
	Towns in CRETE	...	...
	A few places in CYPRUS ...	...	3 persons wounded. Damage slight.
16—5—41. (Friday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	South-east coast	7 planes.	1 plane but the pilot is safe.
NIGHT :—			
	LONDON (only an alert) ...	...	...
	West MIDLANDS and a few other places.	...	Heavy raid; casualties not heavy.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA ...		No damage.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. losses and results of air bombardment.
17—5—41. (Saturday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
DAY :—			
	South coast of ENGLAND ...	1 plane.	...
NIGHT :—			
	Two points in East ENGLAND and a few other places	...	No damage or casualties.
	BRITISH IRAQ.		
	An R. A. F. station at HABBANIYAH.	...	Damage and casualties slight.
	An ambulance on HABBANIYAH plateau.	...	Machine-gunned.
18—5—41. (Sunday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	No raid at all.	...	...
	MEDTERRANEAN.		
	MALTA ...	...	...
	AFRICA.		
	TOBRUK ...	3 planes.	No damage.
19—5—41. (Monday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	ENGLISH CHANNEL ...	5 planes.	...
	South-east and South coasts of ENGLAND.	...	No damage.
	A few points in East ANGLIA, East MIDLANDS and S. W. ENGLAND.	...	Very slight damage.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	CYPRUS ...		Planes driven away.
	SUEZ Canal Area ...	3 planes.	...

SIDE LIGHTS.

"GIVE US THE TOOLS". This now famous quotation from Mr. Winston Churchill's last speech but two, is—despite the moans of ignorant pessimists—being very effectively carried out by our American friends. This is a fact that requires steady re-iteration, for those who do not know the difficulties of switching over a huge industrialised

country from long-view peace production to 'on demand' war production are apt to carp at the present volume of munitions that is being turned over to us. Such people would do well to read Hitler's speech of May 4th. So impressed must he have been with Mr. Knudsen's "We have got as much military production as any two countries in EUROPE, including GERMANY" that he once more postponed his German victory from before next Christmas, to 1942. Once again, the German people are to have jam yesterday, and jam to-morrow, but never jam to-day. Hitler must have realised that AMERICA holds the key of the jam cupboard.

THE CUPBOARD IS NOT BARE. There are solid facts behind Mr. Knudsen's statement. American aircraft production has now for several months taken a sharp curve upwards. In December 1940, aircraft production in the States was 800, not all of them military. In January this figure rose to 1,036 and in March to 1,216. Last month 1,427 military planes only were produced. AMERICA planned to produce 1,500 planes a month by June of this year, and 18,000 planes in the complete year 1941. The figures show that she is already ahead of schedule in monthly production, has already produced nearly one-third of the total aimed at for 1941, and is likely to produce more than she bargained for by the end of the year.

Experience shows that when AMERICA undertakes a great enterprise, there is first much talk and large estimates, and then a period of apparently small achievement. This is while production is being organised on mass principles. Then comes the flood, when the cup of production fills and brims over and promises are left behind in the spate of achievement. AMERICA is on the threshold of this third stage.

The first figures of deliveries to BRITAIN have also been published by the Department of Commerce. In February 258 planes were delivered to BRITAIN, in March 414 to BRITAIN and 35 to the Dutch EAST INDIES. It is estimated in AMERICA that GERMANY's production is about 2,000 planes per month, and BRITAIN's 1500. So the gap between German and allied production is almost closed and will soon begin to widen again, but to GERMANY's disadvantage. German alarm at this process is revealed by reports that she is arranging to take over motor-car factories in FRANCE to increase her aircraft production.

GETTING ON HER MARKS. A cynical friend gibes at the American habit of exaggerated expression, and the over-jubilance of U. S. A. newspapers at good news and over-depression at bad. After the Battle of FRANCE, it was all over with us. After the Battle of BRITAIN we were smothered with lyrical praise. The Battle of MATAPAN was "a second TRAFALGAR", while the evacuation of GREECE put the wind up them again

completely ! Well, well, he's probably so wedded to the British habit of understatement that he does not remember that the American public is accustomed to express itself in forthright terms, and takes much pride in so doing; he certainly forgets that Americans are not so fickle as their words-at-face-value and that in the struggle for control of the mighty mass of public opinion in two continents, Mr. Roosevelt and his colleagues have steadily fought a winning battle against a powerful isolationist (or worse) group of opponents, and that in the country-wide Lease and Lend Bill debate, AMERICA as a whole made up its mind that to falter then would be to stultify an 18 months policy, and waste an enormous amount of money.

Of course, at the moment, Mr. Nye and Mr. Wheeler, in public, and ex-Col. Lindbergh underground, are playing up the invincibility of the German armies, the shipping losses in the Atlantic and so on, but I suspect that Mr. Roosevelt has them taped. He is a marvellous political leader, and one of his favourite devices is to appear to be following up his own precepts so slowly that he is widely blamed for 'doing nothing about it'. When that form of criticism really amounts to anything, he suddenly spends a few thousand million dollars on our behalf, sends U. S. A. freighters where we want them (war-zone or no war-zone), despatches frightening naval forces to all sorts of possible danger-spots, 'adopts' GREENLAND into his area of special interest, extends his territorial waters from 300 to 2,000 miles......and so on.

And now? Well, the President is apparently not well enough to deliver a keenly-awaited speech at the Pan-American Union, but does anyone really doubt that something pretty big is afoot? Mr. Roosevelt's lieutenants have been paving the way bluntly enough. Mr. La Guardia wants American Naval convoys for 900 miles across the Atlantic. Colonel Knox has gone further, with his hint that U. S. A. is actually proposing to convoy ships the whole way to BRITAIN. Senator Sol Bloom, referring to the BALKAN setback, said that it "will have the effect of increasing our effort to help BRITAIN." The ex-Isolationist Senator Capper (in the Middle West, mark you) opined that "This won't have any effect upon us. We'll go right ahead with our plans". A few more authoritative public statements of this kind, and Mr. Roosevelt may feel that his case is cast-iron, and then.........?

"Americans can no longer occupy the immoral and craven position of asking others to make all the sacrifices to win a victory which they recognise as essential to them." So said Col. Knox a day or two ago. To my mind the only doubt remaining is whether the President will actually have to *declare* war. As a U. S. A. paper said even some months ago, "It isn't a question of our going to war. We are at war".

THE NEW PROPAGANDA BARRAGE. However this may be, it is as well to remember that at the moment Hitler has useful cards to play, though they must be played quickly to be of any use, and every week's obstruction brings Nemesis nearer to him. These cards we descry from Spanish, French and Portuguese papers, as well as from Mr. Winston Churchill's matter-of-fact expositions, but let us first collate the Fuehrer's principal objectives. They are these :—

(i) to gain a position that will give him a fair chance of invading BRITAIN itself ;

(ii) to avoid at all costs a French recovery, either in morale or in material resources ;

(iii) to embroil the French Navy with BRITAIN ; and

(iv) to carry the penetration of French and ex-Italian North AFRICA so far that Weygand will find himself unable to resist military occupation or the use of the valuable bases of CASABLANCA and BIZERTA—

all the last three subservient to the first, of course, with the frantic Battle of the Atlantic thrown in.

The cards he has to play are roughly these :

(i) the reputation gained by his armies in GREECE and AFRICA, expensive and inconclusive as these thrusts have been for him ;

(ii) the fact that his armies, air-force and munition output are now at the peak of their efficiency, whereas neither the EMPIRE nor AMERICA have even approached their maximum ;

(iii) the weakened situation of certain neutral, not to say conquered countries, who are either too frightened or too hungry to resist even dishonourable demands ;

(iv) JAPAN'S hysterical jingoism, with which he hopes to distract AMERICA, as well as dissipate British Naval forces.

So it is that no day passes without reports of Ribbentropish machinations in South EUROPE from LISBON to DAMASCUS, that Spanish and Swedish and Swiss papers are full of 'alarma' and keep singling out a neutral country (PORTUGAL, SYRIA, the AZORES, IRAQ, etc.) as being about to be 'attacked by the Democracies', now the stale preliminary to some sudden and brutal action by the Axis Powers themselves.

THE SEARCH FOR SOFT SPOTS. That, exactly, is what all thi diplomatic activity amounts to. Hitler *has* cards, and *must* play his winners at once. So he probes and probes for the weakest defence or most promising opening, quite regardless of the

fact that the world no longer believes anything he says, nor is any longer in doubt as to his utterly 'totalitarian' conception of GERMANY'S destiny. First it is RUSSIA who is threatened with war if she does not join the Axis; then it is VICHY who have to face threats of starvation (or is teased with promises of amelioration of their misery) with the alternative of a march of German troops to the Pyrenees; then it is TURKEY; then it is PORTUGAL and so on. And now, this very day, it is SYRIA, the French ex-mandate, and squadrons of the *Luftwaffe* are already using the LEBANAN aerodromes, and thrusting their inquisitive flights eastwards towards IRAN......and INDIA!

For one, fortunately, all the signs point to BRITAIN having foreseen this "weak spot". Rashid Ali's abortive rebellion might have been much more serious if we had not invoked the Anglo-Iraq Treaty too soon for his and German hopes to mature. And Mr. Eden's statement in Parliament yesterday, shows (i) that our air-force will be asked no questions if they 'visit' Syrian aerodromes with their vengeance, and that (ii) if TURKEY wishes to have plenty of opposition to German armies in ASIA MINOR and IRAQ, she is likely to be obliged in that respect.

WHO would now say that *INDIA* is not concerned in the war?!!

TO-DAY IN LONDON.

EXPERIENCES OF A LADY WORKER.

(*With acknowledgments to the Madras War Review.*)

IT is remarkable, and this fact has been testified to by numerous neutral observers, that the people of England, men, women, and children are standing bravely to the *blitzkrieg* and its consequences. The common suffering has promoted social harmony and greatly developed the spirit of social service and neighbourliness. The following is a graphic account of the experiences of the wife of an English I. C. S.' officer now in England. We are publishing this narrative through the courtesy of a lady friend to whom the letter was addressed from London.

"Where shall I begin to tell you of all the things that have been happening here? The facts you know from your wireless.

"It tells much but not everything. It gives, however, a very just account and the things it does not tell are things that would help the enemy. It certainly does not minimize our losses or seek to delude or misrepresent. That I can say quite surely.

"What it cannot tell is how these months have seemed to the individual and how it is affecting us. At the end of four months in London, working in the dock area of the East End, I can say that we have taken the shock and nothing can now defeat us unless we are one and all exterminated. We have settled down to this peculiar existence. We take it as a matter of course, that we shall sleep in shelters or basements or cellars; that meals, plentiful and of unimpaired quality, shall be eaten when and where we can get them; that we shall work all day harder than we have ever worked; that we shall see no friends, have no outside amusements, but returning at dark, retire to our cellar and stay there till it is time to get ready for work next morning. Planes droning overhead like a swarm of locusts, bombs dropping all round one, and guns firing with deafening roar from the street outside are now the normal accompaniment of one's nights and they no longer keep one awake. If a specially near one crashes loudly one may stir, thinking 'Thank God that one missed us', turn over and go to sleep again. A quiet night without an alert makes one more uneasy, it is so uncanny. This is no 'bit of writing', it is exactly how we feel. That is, if one is lucky. If one isn't lucky and is bombed or blasted, well, it is just too bad.

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICE.

"Obviously no amateur nurses were needed in London. Within an hour of my registering I was asked to go down to Poplar where they were clamouring for help as the *blitz* had hit that district first and hardest (the docks). I soon found myself up to the ears in work and being given charge of the reclothing of the borough. It was in a hell of a mess as you can imagine every one, needy and scroungers alike, besieging for clothes. Parcels of second-hand stuff coming by the hundred, no check on anything and heaps of unsorted clothing clean, soiled and filthy, good, bad and indifferent, lace, ball dresses mixed up with dirty underclothing, men's evening coats and plus fours and ragged shirts. Too much of some things and not enough of others, people half naked and pathetically grateful for anything, sleek well dressed Jews storming because they could not get new clothes. Families of seven and eight all to be clothed somehow with queues storming at the doors. Scroungers coming back again and again, hoping they would not be recognized.

"Gradually the rush subsided, we got things straightened out and I took over charge. Insisted on cheques and card indexes and vouchers for all incoming and outgoing stuff. Got the number of enthusiastic but utterly useless helpers weeded out, trained the few good ones and now it is running smoothly and when we have bad bombings there we are ready and equipped to deal with them. We not only clothe those who come to the town hall but we supply the rest centres where the bombed-out go to live till they get new

accommodation. We also run working parties to make new garments and to mend old. I have got quite a nice little band of local women who are enthusiastic to help their own people. They tell me that the best thing I have done is to get the local women keen and loyal. One woman tells me she wanted her husband to take her away when the *blitz* began there she was so frightened. Now nothing would move her, and she grudges the time she has to spend in doing her husband's cooking and washing and mending. She admits it has changed her whole outlook having this work to do, so I have made her my second in command and she is almost bursting with pride and importance and is extremely efficient. That is one fault I had to find with the Women's Voluntary Service. It was too West-end. It did not incorporate the local talent sufficiently. The clothing is my special department but I also help with the rest of the work which it does in Poplar. We administer Poplar's share of Mayor's fund for giving extra relief over and above or beyond the scope of what Government can do. We find billets for evacuating babies under five and old people who do not come under any Government scheme. We help people to find work and equip them for it. We help to ease the difficulties of separated families, and thousands of other cases that are really nobody's business. Besides that we run a late night canteen for the A. R. P. workers, run a mobile canteen for rescue workers in night raids, organize and superintend shelter feeding, etc.

AMERICAN RED CROSS.

"The American Red Cross have been very very generous to us. They give us an almost endless supply of garments (and some difficult to persuade our conservative Eastenders to wear, such as union suits, knicker-bockers and women's combinations with long legs and long sleeves !) but magnificent pullovers, boots, shoes, overcoats, dresses and a lot of wool and materials for us to have made up.

"They have been most generous in money too. I must tell you a story of our Poplar centre. A party from the American Red Cross came down to see our work and said they'd like to give us a donation. We had to tell them that Women's Voluntary Service didn't have any funds of their own (we are attached to the Home Office and Government supplied our office expenses), but that if they liked to give a donation to the Mayor of Poplar, we could administer it for him. They asked how much we'd like and swallowing hard and hoping we'd be forgiven we boldly up and said a thousand pounds. They said "all right" and we sighed with joy. Presently along came the cheque which the office duly acknowledged. Back came a letter from the American Red Cross saying had we examined the cheque because it was for seven thousand not for one thousand—complete passing-out of the Women's Voluntary Service Poplar !

AMERICAN SYMPATHY AND HELP.

"And now we have Roosevelt's grand speech to Cóngress. He has managed things marvellously, never pressing the people further than they could go at the moment. We never doubted Roosevelt's sympathy but whether he could carry the nation with him was the question. His re-election was a great relief here, for whatever Willkie might have been, Roosevelt we knew and trusted. In him we knew we had a friend. I hope America will not have to come in as a military power. At present she is of far more use to us as an arsenal. What warms our hearts at the moment of his great speech is the knowledge that America realizes we are fighting for her too, and that if we cannot pay in cash we are paying in lives and suffering, in the devastation of our homes and great ancient buildings. We offer these our batered cities, our broken bodies and our ruined lives, our severed families, our little homes built up over years gone in one crash (a land mine wrecked five hundred the other night in Poplar) in exchange for the meterials of defence that America can give us. Is it not a better exchange than cash? It is with great thankfulness that we see that America is realizing this, and that she is backing us to the limit.

UPLIFTING OF SPIRIT.

"You know, horrible and awful as this is, it will be, I think, the saving of the world. Already here in England it has shaken us out of the soul destroying lethargy and smugness and false values. I keep saying to the people down in Poplar who have lost their little all, 'What do possessions matter? If you have your life and yor health, you can get together a better home than you had before and we'll help you to it'. And to those who fear moving out to new places I say 'How dull to live always in one place, what a grand chance to see other places, making new friends, and what tales to tell to a new audience' and they begin to think it's rather an adventure as living dangerously always is. The sap is rising; we see it like that here. A new adventure to be bombed day and night, a triumph if we can escape them, a martyrdom if we cannot, a sacrifice in a great cause. The spirit uplifts the whole nation and we fear nothing. Nothing but extermination can get us down and we are proud and glad to suffer. Don't pity us or fear for us. We have no fear and the ones who need the pity are those who are not fortunate enough to be here in the thick of it.

"My peace of mind here and my complete happiness are in sharp contrast to the agony of those months in India when I had not wholly accepted the tragedy of the war, when I saw from outside the wicked waste and was full of fear, so far away and so ignorant of what might be happening here. Now I see quite clearly that like the Crucifixion it was necessary for the regeneration of mankind. We were so *bloody* selfish and greedy and jealous of our privileges

and so afraid of others filching them from us. There will be, there must be, a regeneration but that can only come after purification by suffering. This is not cant. I know it from my own experience, but the suffering must make the spirit strong. It is no virtue in itself just to have suffered, unless it leads us on to fight afterwards for a better world. I am thinking aloud as it were. As I talk to some one so, I find out what I believe and you are the recipient."

BRITISH ARMOURED DIVISIONS.

REORGANISATION CARRIED OUT.

The Daily Telegraph's military correspondent states:

British armoured divisions have been reorganised. They form a most powerful instrument of war, capable of meeting any corresponding formation of the enemy with every prospect of success.

Changes have been made in the types of fighting vehicles with a view to producing the hardest hitter ever known to our army organisation. The component parts, too, are well balanced.

These self-contained units include, in addition to the latest design tank, mobile artillery, anti-aircraft and anti-tank units, field squadrons, Royal Engineers, lorry-borne infantry and administrative and maintenance units.

The cruiser tank is the standard fighting vehicle. It has speed and fire power which, apart from its normal employment, makes useful as a close reconnaissance machine. Arrangement is made for distant reconnaissance.

Both the gun power and the armour of our armoured divisions are incomparably superior to Italian formations, while **it is confidently asserted that the British divisons are at least as powerful instruments as any of the German Panzer divisions** so far put in the field.

The German Panzer divisions each include about 300 to 400 tanks of various designs and sizes, but there appears to be no finality about their organisation. The Nazis, it is understood, show a decided preference for heavier rather than lighter tanks. They have already substituted the motor cycle for the light tank for reconnaissance purposes.

WHY AMERICANS THINK AID TO BRITAIN WORTH WHILE

HER "GROWING POTENCY TO EFFECT FINAL VICTORY"

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S "MILITARY BOOK".

The News Chronicle's New York Correspondent cabled on April 24:

EVEN if Britain could be dislodged from the Continent including Gibraltar, could lose the oil-fields in the Near East and be forced to evacuate North Africa, yet she would still be "in a position of growing potency to effect final victory".

Arthur Krock, Chief of the *New York Times* Washington bureau quotes this belief from which, he says, springs the powerful military support for President Roosevelt's statement that war can be won by assuring the existence of the British Empire with American aid. This can be done whatever may be the result of single battles and campaigns.

According to Krock, President Roosevelt is speaking by a "Military Book" which is the standard in Washington.

Based on the promise of greater American armament production and delivery with special emphasis on aircraft and ships, this ensures the dominance of British naval power in the Atlantic, Red Sea, and Singapore areas.

The weakest points are considered to be American industrial plants and the administration of their production and delivery.

But given peaceful labour conditions and firm leadership in Washington, experts believe that this section can be brought to the requisite strength.

One result of the Balkan events will be the release for other uses of British naval units in the Mediterranean and a large quantity of merchant shipping.

If these are used in the Atlantic and the Red Sea, the blockades, patrols will be greatly strengthened leaving the Axis with the same problems as before but intensified—how to maintain air supremacy to cut off British supplies.

SPAIN'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS WAR

NAZI ATTEMPTS TO WIN OVER COUNTRY

FRENCH "COLLABORATION" WITH GERMANY

The Times' diplomatic correspondent writes:—

The Germans are still trying their hardest to win over Spain wholly to their side. To cover up their real demands they are putting out the usual smoke-screen of rumour from all wireless stations and newspapers which they control in enslaved countries.

The Spanish people as a whole are certainly loth to enter war again. A few of them have had sufficient food for months. In the country districts many villagers hardly know where their next meal is coming from. Typhus has appeared in Madrid and other cities. The British Government's shiploads of wheat and other foodstuffs from the Americas have helped a little.

The Germans are, of course, assuming that their military successes in Greece and Libya will encourage the Spaniards to throw in their lot with them. They tell the Spaniards that there will be no need to fight. But there are still some groups in Spain who see beyond the immediate Axis victories won by the German weight of metal. They know the value of sea power; and they realize that the British people are only just now approaching their proper armed strength after years of disarmament. With the intensified production in Britain and the Empire and with much larger American help, the Allies have it in their power to build a striking machine greater than the German.

GERMAN ACTIVITY IN SPAIN.

Knowing this, the Germans are seeking diplomatic successes while the odds seem to be in their favour. In France no less than in Spain they are trying to tip the scales against Britain. The latest reports suggest that even Admiral Darlan has fallen from favour. These may simply be German attempts to frighten him into closer allegiance. At the same time the Germans are evidently pushing forward de Brinon, the Vichy Ambassador in Paris, and Bonnet, the former Foreign Minister, for high posts in the Vichy Government. They suggest that Laval could profitably take de Brinon's place as Ambassador in Paris.

QUESTION OF BRITISH BLOCKADE
FOODSTUFFS BEING SENT BY BRITAIN

The Times' Madrid correspondent cabled on April 21:—

Since Germany's invasion of Greece and Yugoslavia, the Madrid press, with the Falangist organ *Arriba* in the van, have provided another spasm of Axis outbursts. As the war lengthens, opportunists seem to become more hysterical in Madrid.

This week's crop of graphic headlines began with the "re-embarkation" of the British troops in Greece and ended with stories of British intrigues in Portugal. No story is too tall for propaganda purposes. The Trans-Ocean Agency, Germany's clearing house for fantastic stories in the Peninsula, has excelled itself. Completing the battle of nerves is a rumour-mongering campaign in spite of the new security law threatening from three to ten years' imprisonment for circulating false or tendentious stories.

The Spanish people are, however, really too much occupied with their own problems to be greatly impressed by Jingoism. The lie is given to the Axis-inspired propaganda that the British blockade is responsible for Spain's penury by the fact that from February 1 to April 10 there arrived 16 ships carrying 67,000 tons of wheat and other cereals from British stocks in accordance with the agreements between the Spanish and British Governments. Other cargoes of vital foodstuffs are now *en route* and Britain has placed a further 100,000 tons of British-owned wheat from Argentina at Spain's disposal. This is eloquent proof of Britain's desire to assure Spanish supplies.

SITUATION IN FRENCH NORTH AFRICA.
EXTENT OF GERMAN CONTROL.
BASES ESTABLISHED IN MOROCCO.

[*We print an interesting despatch but advise a grain of salt ! Ed.*]

David Scott cabled to the News Chronicle from Lisbon on April 17:

Direct information received from French North Africa leaves no doubt about these facts :

(1) The Nazis now exercise complete military control in French Morocco.

(2) Ports on the Atlantic coast of Morocco are being organised as bases for attacks on British shipping and eventually on the United States 'Atlantic bases.'

(3) Shipping movememts between French Africa and France have been organised by Vichy on a large scale under German orders and by agreement with Spain.

(4) General Weygand is deliberately turning on a blind eye to German control and is falsely denying the existence of German bases.

AXIS COMMISSIONS.

Ever since the Franco-German armistice, Axis commissions—at first only Italian—have been established at Bizerta, Algiers, Oran, Kenitra and Casablanca. Germans are replacing Italians established in the "civil" control commissions in December. Military control was substituted early in February.

On February 8 the now notorious Casablanca control commission composed of about 200 officers and other ranks arrived at Casablanca in a fleet of Dornier troop-carriers escorted by Messerschmitt fighters.

These planes now occupy the Casablanca air port and frequently fly over the town.

Hotels have been taken over for Germans at Anfa and Aindiab, watering places near Casablanca. The Germans do not enter the city in uniform, but they wholly control the port and air-fields, and everyone knows that they are there.

Detachments have been sent to Rabay, Safi, Agadir and Marrakesh, which are similarly controlled.

Recently private owners of villas near Casablanca were ordered to vacate them for German officers' families.

PORTS IN "VIRTUAL STATE OF SIEGE".

On the pretext of protecting Casablanca from possible British or de Gaullist attack, the ports are kept virtually in a state of siege. Entire waterfronts extending to bathing beaches on both sides are bounded by a belt of barbed wire near the water, then a six-feet concrete wall surmounted by two high tension cables, then a second barbed-wire belt, all of them constantly patrolled.

Suspicious nocturnal activity inside the harbour suggests that it is already used as a submarine base.

When **General Weygand** recently made his tour of inspection, it was noticed that he **avoided Casablanca**, where the Germans' presence is not concealed.

The German garrison at Marrakesh **disappeared** into the hills for "manoeuvres" on March 22 and 23 **when General Weygand was there.** Early in March Weygand had denied the existence of German bases in Morocco.

UNDER THE JACK BOOT.

GERMAN TREATMENT OF OCCUPIED COUNTRIES.

DEMAND ON THEIR RESOURCES.

"WAR ON NERVES OF PEOPLE".

*The **Times**, commenting on articles which it published showing depredations caused by Germans in occupied European countries, says:—*

Like the swarm of locusts descending upon the prairies of western Canada and leaving a desert, Nazi hordes swarmed into countries well endowed with natural resources and reduced them to destitution within the space of a few months. They came, they gorged, they took away. Now they have emptied the cupboards and rationing has become necessary. The conquerors bring nothing with them. They carry off into the Reich not only food but also clothes, machinery, oil, rolling stock and the contents of museums and art galleries. The limit of their covetousness is only the limit of their spoliation.

It takes an uncommonly brave spirit to be cheerful in Nazi ridden Europe. Pillage is accompanied by an odious system of spying, bribery, secret arrests, holding hostages and brutal executions which turn life into one long nightmare. A war is being waged on the nerves of the victim populations all the time.

It is reported from annexed Alsace that a band of men and women who some months ago took part in a forbidden religious procession were all arrested and carried off in lorries. Since then no word has been received from any of them; but from time to time relatives receive papers, brooches, pocket books or other personal belongings of their loved ones and are left to guess their fate. France and Poland have both been so divided geographically that the richest parts industrially and agriculturally come under direct Germen control and the Germans in all six occupied countries are carrying out systematically their deliberate policy of turning the populations into paupers working for the enrichment of Germany.

THE GREEK SPIRIT.

(A reminiscence).

[The following is a translation of a letter written by a brilliant young Greek novelist, who volunteered for active service as soon as the Italo-Greek war began.

It was sent from Athens on March 25th, the day of the German invasion, and on the 120th anniversary of the Greek struggle for independence.

To-day, the author may be wounded, or a prisoner of war, or mad. But his simple words live to show the spirit of Greek youth, a spirit with which the shameless conqueror will one day have to reckon, for it may be remembered that in addition to the Greek forces rescued in the evacuation, there are 50,000 young Greeks undergoing military training with our forces in the Middle East].

"ATHENS,

25—3—41.

MY DEAR.........

Your letter found me still here, because I am, I really was quite untrained and the job of getting myself fit for the front took me much longer than I expected.

Our unit has now been moved to an idyllic spot somewhere in Attica, and I spend my days, and nights, waiting for final orders. I know that by the time this reaches you, I shall be there where every Greek longs to be to-day.

I loved getting your news. Yes, you are right. We passed through hours—great and intense—and we went through them in good heart and with a calm far greater than we dared expect from ourselves. The whole country is saturated with a deep sense of friendship, that link so strong and unifying. How beautiful is friendship in time of war!

It is difficult to tell you how magnificent the Greek soldiers are. What culture, what grace, what humanity, what valour they hide under their moving modesty! The boys from Athens with the acute brains and the perfect manners, the men from the villages who spend their leisure teasing each other in limericks, the students from the Universities who so assiduously keep their war diaries, and the young officers so suddenly matured under the weight of their manly responsibilities. What loveable people, all of them!

Now we are ready for the cyclone—nearer and nearer every day. We shall do what is necessary, in absolute calm and we are all confident that we shall put up a good show. We think of nothing else.

Some day, when I see you again, I shall have much to tell you!

Joy and health to you,
GEORGE.'

RUDOLPH HESS.

Mental disorder was attributed to Hess by the Berlin radio in an attempt to anticipate the news of his desertion. He had been "suffering from an illness of many years' standing", said Berlin, and was subject to hallucinations.

But he had not been removed from his post. Less than a month before he had broadcast fulsome birthday greetings to Hitler.

"The blessings of the Almighty will be with Germany", he said on April 20, "blessings which up to now have been so obvious and plentiful, ever since you have become our Fuehrer".

Notable Hallucinations.

That was one hallucination. Here are other statements made during Hess's "illness of many years' standing";

Aug. 30, 1937:

"With clear conscience we can explain: 'We don't want to let National Socialism trickle into other nations like poison. Nor do we want to force it on other nations'."

Sept. 7, 1938:

"What he does is right; whatever he does is necessary, and whatever he does is successful, as in Austria......... Thus manifestly the Fuehrer has the divine blessing."

May 1, 1940:

"The German people are confident of victory. Our Fuehrer and the unity of the German nation are the best guarantees for final victory."

Dec. 25, 1940:

"Whether our soldiers happen to be separated from their foe by walls of concrete or merely by water, the German armed forces are absolutely sure of being victorious in this struggle."

Murders, desertions, hallucinations. This is the self-confessed record of the uneasy gangsters who boast of unity.

Examples of Misleading Statements in Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East for the period May 5—May 11, 1941.

A.—BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH.

BERLIN GIVES THE GAME AWAY.

Berlin on May 6 accused the B. B. C. of "insolence" in asserting that the R. A. F. does more damage to Germany than the *Luftwaffe* does to Britain. This is a highly significant remark, not because it is untrue—there is nothing new or significant in Goebbels' misquoting other people to suit his own ends—but because **it betrays the Nazis' growing uneasiness over the increasing scale of British air attacks.**

Needless to say, neither the B. B. C. nor any other authoritative British source has ever claimed that the R. A. F. has so far done "more damage" to Germany than Britain herself has endured; on the contrary, these sources have always stressed the fact that the *Luftwaffe's* numerical superiority and the bases it possesses in occupied territory give it an enormous advantage over the R. A. F. **At the same time, this latest assertion by Berlin is a tacit admission that the more scientific methods employed throughout the war by the British airmen, as contrasted with the indiscriminate attacks launched by the Nazis, may have resulted in greater damage to Germany's war-machine than the Germans have inflicted on Britain's.**

BIGGER AND BETTER BOMBS.

What seems certain, though it has never been definitely claimed, is that the R. A. F.'s newest bombs are very much deadlier than anything the enemy has so far been able to use. The German radio's fury at the terrific damage caused in Berlin last month, Admiral Darlan's bonus-bribes to married dock-yard workers at much-bombed Brest, the Nazis' inability to conceal recent devastation at places like Hamburg, Kiel, Bremen and Emden, and (most significant of all) the Fuehrer's own declaration last week that the entire German nation must throw itself into "this tremendous armament process", are all of them proofs that **this year's British blows at Hitler's war-machine are even heavier than those delivered in 1940.**

A FAMOUS VICTORY (AXIS STYLE).

On may 10 the German wireless was incautious enough to quote a long and circumstantial extract from an Italian war communiqué describing the Axis air attack on a British convoy in the Western Mediterranean on May 8. According to this latest mirror of truth, the convoy was escorted by "two battleships, an aircraft-carrier, as well as cruisers and destroyers the number of which could not be precisely ascertained."

First of all, according to Rome *via* Berlin, Italian torpedo-carrying aircraft escorted by fighters attacked the British ships, with the result that two cruisers, one destroyer and a large steamer received torpedo-hits. Later, Italian bombers scored direct hits on one battleship, the aircraft-carrier and two large steamers. Still later, the Italian torpedo-aircraft returned to the fray, when the other British battleship was hit and the aircraft-carrier received further damage. In combats between Italian and British fighters, goes on the communiqué, "14 British aircraft of the Defiant and Hurricane types were shot down, five Italian planes failed to return to their bases and three returned damaged, while another three British aircraft were shot down by German fighters".

This finely imaginative piece of writting, it will be observed, gives the respective losses in this engagement as follows :—

BRITISH : Two battleships, one aircraft-carrier, two cruisers, one destroyer and three merchantmen damaged by bomb and/or torpedo.

17 aircraft destroyed.

ITALIAN : Five aircraft destroyed, three damaged.

Berlin doubtless broadcast these grandiloquent claims by its junior partner in the hope that the British Admiralty communiqué (as has often happened in the past) would not be issued for some days. Unfortunately, however, that very same night the Admiralty announced at, as a result of repeated German and Italian aircraft attacks on British naval forces in the Western Meditterranean on May 8, **seven of the attackers were destroyed without any damage being sustained by any of the British ships. Two British fighters were lost, but the pilot of one of them was saved.** Something more than Axis broadcasts will be needed to stop British convoys getting through the Mediterranean.

PAX GERMANICA.

Even Goebbels has seldom been responsible for a more indecent broadcast than that of May 7, wherein he boasted that the German troops were rapidly restoring "peace and order" to ravaged Belgrade, where electricity and water supplies were said to be functioning normally.

"It is now apparent," added the Hun broadcast unctuously, "that the German soldier can not only carry through a *blitzkrieg* successfully, but is equally capable of rapidly restoring peace and order".

What the Germans can never restore are the lives of the 30,000 civilian men, women and children of Belgrade who were massacred by Hitler's dive-bombers on April 6 and 7.

NAZI POISON FOR INDIA.

Not content with fabricating stories of unrest among Indian soldiers serving overseas, which they claim as a direct result of the present trouble in Iraq, the Germans in all their broadcasts to India on May 9 reported "severe riots" among Indian troops in Lahore. Several hundred soldiers were alleged to have been arrested, others being killed or wounded

This report is entirely without foundation. The five lakhs of people living in Lahore will be interested in this outrageous German claim, which is a typical example of German propaganda methods.

B.—BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES.

MUSLIM DISAPPROVAL OF RASHID ALI.

The Nazis, in their Hindustani and Persian broadcasts of May 7 and their Arabic broadcast of May 6, appeared to be anxious to prove that Muslim opinion was universally opposed to the measures which the British had to take in Iraq in sheer self-defence, and also that the Indian ulemas had issued *fatwas* urging every able-bodied Muslim to fight against the British. **In actual fact, however, Muslim opinion, abroad as well as in India, has unequivocally condemned Rashid Ali's treacherous action in Iraq as being opposed to the best interests of Islam.**

The Turkish paper *Yeni Sabah*, for instance, says: "The Iraqis should throw out their present leaders", while *Vatan* declares: "The men who to-day boast of being the leaders of Iraq are responsible for the present events. They have betrayed the cause of Iraq".

The Egyptian Press is equally hostile to Rashid Ali and his *junta*. *Al Mokattam* points out that King Ibn Saud and other Arab leaders have already expressed their disapproval of Rashid Ali's action and that his sacrifice of Iraq's interests in exchange for Axis gold has caused consternation throughout

the Arab world. Writing in the same strain, another Egyptian paper, *Al Ahram*, points out that the despicable policy followed by Rashid Ali and the four generals bought by the Axis has caused grief to the entire Iraq nation. **The paper emphasises that Iraq had realised complete independence and that Britain had not interferred in her domestic affairs, even on such occasions as the illegal overthrow of the Government.**

INDIAN OPINION.

The stand taken by the Indian Muslims in this matter is equally unambiguous. Far from their being any *fatwas*, against the British (as the Nazis hopefully claim), a well-known religious leader of the Muslims has from the N. W. F. Province sent a telegram to Rashid Ali condemning the latter's action. Typical also is the Lahore Muslim paper, *Ehasan*, which declares : " No Muslim country can have any sympathy with Germany, and we should like to warn the people of Iraq against the grave consequences of Germans setting foot on their soil ". Speaking in Madras on May 8, Sir Mahmud Usman, Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, declared : " It is quite clear to my mind that this outbreak in Iraq is the culmination of a long period of intrigue by Nazi-paid Quislings—renegades in the pay of Nazi Germany........... **There is no doubt that the creation of an Iraq state was due to the sympathy and protection of Great Britain** ".

Reaction in Islamic countries has thus clearly put in the right perspective what the Nazis style as " Britain's most ruthless invasion of Iraq ". Equally baseless is the German's claim that they are the champions of Islam. The Muslims know that the Germans are, if anything, more ruthless than their comrades in crime, the Italians, who decimated the Muslims of Libya, drove out the Senussi and seized the Muslim Kingdom of Albania. As the *New York Times* rightly puts it : " **there is no stranger paradox in this war than the spectacle of the greatest infidel of modern times summoning Islam to a holy war with the blood of 14 nations on his hands.** "

BRITAIN AND EGYPT.

According to the Nazis' misleading statement, broadcasts in Hindustani and Persian on May 4. Britain has made Egypt a theatre of war and even forced that country to meet British expenses. Actually, the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty provides that in the event of war the British Government will be obliged to defend Egypt as a whole and the Egyptian Government will also accord to His Majesty's Government all the facilities and assistance in its power.

The Nazi statement about the Egyptians being made to meet British expenses is baseless. Egypt, on the contrary, is prosperous. **When it is remembered that Great Britain needed for her own use only about one-third of**

Egypt's entire cotton crop which she purchased last year, and must have had the greatest difficulty in storing or selling the rest, no one can suggest that Great Britain is acting from any other motive than to help her ally.

THE MESSIAH OF PEACE!

Dr. Gobbels' Hindustani and Persian broadcasts of May 5, discovered an American news agency as stating that Hitler was " the Greatest Messiah of peace and order ": Hitler himself told the world on January 30, 1936 : "We want to be a peaceloving element among the nations. We cannot repeat that too often." But, quite apart from the fact that his action in invading 14 neighbouring countries since his accession to power have belied his pious professions, he has himself revealed the conditions under which a Nazi peace is possible. Discussing the question in *Mein Kampf*, he says : **"The pacifist-humanitarian idea may indeed become an excellent one when the most superior type of manhood will have succeeded in subjugating the world to such an extent that this type is the sole master of the world."**

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

1941—

LECTURE XLV.

May	...24, Saturday ...	Town Hall	... 6.30 p. m.
	25, Sunday ...	Alangudi	... 6.00 p. m
		Rasiamangalam	... 6.30 p. m.
	26, Monday ...	Kulipirai	... 6.00 p. m.
		Sundaram	... 6.30 p. m.
	27, Tuesday ...	Kottaikkadu	... 6.00 p. m.
		Karambakkudi	... 6.30 p. m.
	28, Wednesday	Piliyur	... 6.00 p. m.
		Kannangudi	... 6.30 p. m.
	29, Thursday ...	Annavasal	... 6.00 p. m.
		Kilakkurichi	... 6.30 p. m.
	30, Friday ...	Valramanikkam	... 6.00 p. m.
		Yembal	... 6.30 p. m.

LECTURE XLVI.

May	...31, Saturday ...	Town Hall	... 6.30 p. m.
June	...1, Sunday ...	Nirpalani	... 6.00 p. m.
		Avoor	... 6.30 p. m.
	2, Monday ...	Karayur	... 6.00 p. m.
		Keelathaniam	... 6.30 p. m.
	3, Tuesday ...	Andakkulam	... 6.00 p. m.
		Killanur	... 6.30 p. m.
	4, Wednesday	Narthamalai	... 6.00 p. m.
		Uppiliakkudi	... 6.30 p. m.
	5, Thursday ...	Semmattividuthi	... 6.00 p. m.
		Malayur	... 6.30 p. m.
	6, Friday ...	Konnayur	... 6.00 p. m.
		Mela Vegupatti	... 6.30 p. m.

SUPPORT
THE STATE WAR EFFORT

BY TAKING TICKETS IN THE

GREAT WAR FUND RAFFLE

Conducted by

The State War Fund Entertainments Committee,
with the authority and under the auspices of the Darbar

CLOSING DATE 15-6-41 ∙ DRAW ON 23-6-41

BIG MONEY FOR LUCKY WINNERS
ON
HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJA'S BIRTHDAY

300 PRIZES

1st	PRIZE	Rs. 7,500	
2nd	PRIZE	,, 5,000	
3rd	PRIZE	,, 2,500	
2	PRIZES	,, 1,000	each.
5	,,	,, 500	,,
90	,,	,, 100	,,
100	,,	,, 50	,,
100	,,	,, 15	,,

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 1,000—25-5-41.